

and rural America for shoring up infrastructures; energizing communities; seeding intellectual, scientific, technological, and economic capital; and ensuring healthy, sustainable, communities.

HURRICANE SUPPORT

NAFEO supports the CBC Budget recommendation to provide a \$200 billion down payment to aid victims of recent hurricanes. As noted above, NAFEO represents 106 HBCUs including the University of the Virgin Islands ("UVI"). The UVI President, Dr. David Hall, has shared that the University has endured tremendous challenges associated with the recent hurricanes, and is in dire need of operating funds. Dr. Hall writes "Due to the problems the Territory is facing as a result of the two [now three] hurricanes, and their financial impact, the monthly allotments to the University ha[ve] not been received. We receive approximately \$2.6 million each month from the local government and without those funds we will cease to operate. We are resuming classes on October 9th and the University will need to pay its employees and address other critical needs. Federal funding specifically earmarked to the University to operate would be extremely helpful and valuable."

Representative, we need your leadership to ensure that our nation's budget reflects our priorities and especially the needs of our students. The CBC Budget focuses on meeting the needs of our nation. We look forward to working with members of Congress to advance a budget that reflective of what we need and deserve.

Sincerely,

LEZLI BASKERVILLE,
President & CEO.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I strongly oppose House Concurrent Resolution 71.

This Budget Resolution would direct the Oversight Committee to identify a minimum of \$32 billion in savings over ten years.

Only two of the other 11 authorizing committees would be instructed to make more drastic cuts to federal programs—the Ways and Means Committee would have to identify at least \$52 billion and the Judiciary Committee would have to identify at least \$45 billion in cuts.

Once again, House Republicans are targeting middle class civil service workers and their pensions for massive reductions.

The Republican Budget would require federal workers to contribute significantly more to their pension plans than they do now.

It would also end the retirement supplement for employees like law enforcement officers

who are required by law to retire before reaching eligibility age for Social Security benefits.

It would also eliminate pensions altogether for new hires.

This Budget Resolution would slash the federal workforce by 10 percent through attrition in certain agencies by limiting agencies to one new hire for every three employees who leave.

I am utterly dismayed at the relentless Republican attacks on middle class federal workers without any real consideration of what they do every single day for the American people.

Over the past several years, Republicans in Congress have cut federal employee compensation and retirement benefits for a total of nearly \$200 billion in order to pay for deficit reduction and other government programs.

The argument that federal workers must sacrifice for the good of the country might have made some sense when the country was struggling during the Great Recession, and they did sacrifice.

But it makes much less sense now that our economy is recovering and the wage gains made by private sector workers are far outstripping those of workers who commit their lives to public service.

The argument that federal workers must be continually forced to sacrifice for deficit reduction also loses its strength when House Republicans are trying to give tax cuts to the wealthy without paying for it.

The Republican tax package would add \$2.4 trillion to the deficit over 10 years, and 80 percent of tax cuts would benefit the top 1 percent of Americans, who earn at least \$900,000.

While the wealthiest in our country would receive the vast majority of tax cuts, one third of middle class families making between \$50,000 and \$150,000 would see their taxes increase.

Many of these middle class families are federal workers who dedicate their lives to serving the American people.

It is unfair and uncompassionate to treat our civil servants in this way.

These are the men and women who aided in the rescue and recovery efforts as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria tore through Texas, Louisiana, the Southeast, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

More than 32,000 federal employees were involved in helping families trapped in the storms.

They include: disaster response teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who provided temporary power and roofing, debris removal, and infrastructure assessment; National Guard soldiers and airmen who delivered food and water to survivors and cleared debris to open roads; Department of Energy personnel who ensured that fuel was available in impacted areas; Public Health Service officers who provided healthcare, including dialysis services to those in need; Members of the U.S. Coast Guard who helped ensure the delivery of relief supplies; and Agriculture Department employees who provided food to schools, shelters, and disaster organizations.

Rather than targeting and penalizing these brave and selfless public servants, Congress must do a better job at showing how much we appreciate their efforts.

I urge my colleagues to vote against House Concurrent Resolution 71.

HONORING BOULTER INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2017

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable achievement—the 125th anniversary of Boulter Industrial Contractors located in Webster, New York. Founded in 1892 by Thomas Boulter, the company started by delivering coal and ice by horse drawn wagons and is now Western New York's premier mover of heavy machinery for manufacturing and infrastructure projects. Even though decades have passed since those starting days, the company still displays their original wagons in remarkable condition as a reminder of how far they have come.

The growth of Boulter Industrial Contractors as a family-run business is a true success story in American entrepreneurship. Under the leadership of President and CEO William S. Boulter, a fifth-generation member of the Boulter family, and their hard-working employees the company is proudly carrying on Thomas Boulter's legacy. Congress should never lose sight of companies like this. That's why a flag that has flown over the U.S. Capitol flies over Boulter today. I congratulate the Boulter family and its employees, several of which are veterans.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RACHELLE DEANNE O'NEIL

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2017

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Rachelle O'Neil, who served as a constituent services representative in my District Office for 15 years.

A Houston native who is proud of her Ragin'-Cajun roots, Rachelle is one of eight children born to the late Audrey Ann Colbert O'Neil and George O'Neil, Sr. Her loving parents instilled a passion for education that inspires Ms. O'Neil to this day. In fact, Mr. Speaker, she recently graduated magna cum laude with master's degree in public administration from the University of Texas at Arlington.

While earning undergraduate degrees from the University of Houston in psychology and political science, Ms. O'Neil won the Mickey Leland Congressional Internship opportunity, which brought her to the U.S. Capitol where she worked in former Representative Carrie P. Meek's (D-FL) congressional office. The experience, which included meeting President Bill Clinton, cemented her passion in working on the behalf of the American people.

Within a few years of relocating to Atlanta, Ms. O'Neil joined my congressional staff, and Mr. Speaker, please trust me when I say that she hit the ground running. Rachelle assists constituents with judiciary, education, health, Social Security, child welfare, and transportation matters, and she is a tireless advocate for women and girls. Mr. Speaker, few people can match her passionate, fierce pursuit of justice and equity.